

**NASS**

# New England Agricultural Statistics Service

a field office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service  
United States Department of Agriculture

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## USDA FORECASTS ANNUAL CRANBERRY PRODUCTION

Massachusetts' 1999 cranberry production totaled 1.9 million barrels, 1 percent above the previous year. Nationally, production increased 17 percent from 1998 to 6.4 million barrels in 1999. Most of this increase was due to higher yields in Wisconsin that produced 3.3 million barrels, 32 percent above 1998. With such high production, Wisconsin comprised 52 percent of national production, Massachusetts produced 30 percent, New Jersey 11, Oregon 5 and Washington 2 percent of the nation's cranberry production. As of early-June 2000, the Massachusetts cranberry-growing region has already experienced erratic weather, with a cool spring slowing plant development, but crop conditions were generally good early in the season when bloom was not far away.

Every August, the U.S. Department of Agriculture publishes the official forecast of cranberry production for the five major cranberry producing states across the country. In Massachusetts, the study is administered by the New England field office of USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS).

**USDA's Cranberry Growers Survey is the only chance to officially forecast production for the 2000 crop.** This annual study is part of a national program to establish official USDA statistics for cranberry acreage and production. Approximately 300 Massachusetts growers will be asked for their help in this nationwide effort to forecast 2000 production and measure the final utilization and prices for last year's crop. The survey is mailed in late-July and non respondents are called in early-August. As with all surveys conducted by the National Agricultural Statistics Service, individual operator information is kept strictly confidential and is even exempt from requests under the Freedom of Information Act. The individual reports are only used in combination with others to establish state and national estimates.

The cranberry production forecast will be released in the *Cranberries* report from Washington, D.C. at 1:00 p.m. on August 15, 2000. All reports are available on the Internet within minutes of the scheduled release time. Statistics for the entire United States will be reprinted in the *Cranberry* report from the Concord field office; the semiannual report is available on the Internet but complimentary copies are also mailed to survey participants upon request.

[The New England Agricultural Statistics Service is a field office of USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service. It is located in Concord, NH, and is responsible for agricultural statistics in all six states in the region. The office can be reached at 1-800-642-9571 or through e-mail at [nass-nh@nass.usda.gov](mailto:nass-nh@nass.usda.gov). All national statistics and state level newsletters are available through free e-mail subscriptions and on the Internet at [www.usda.gov/nass/](http://www.usda.gov/nass/).]

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